

Memorandum



Date: April 8, 2013

CRC
Agenda Item No. 7(C)

To: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

A handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to Carlos A. Gimenez, the Mayor.

Subject: South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center Status Report

The second season of the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center (SMDCAC) commenced on October 1, 2012. For the five month period following the start of season two, SMDCAC held 86 events among the three performance venues (Mainstage, Black Box and Lab Theater) hosting over 25,398 patrons and guests. The Center continues to emphasize its goals of presenting artistically excellent work and developing strong community outreach components in everything that it does. A comparison of attendance at events from February 2012 and February 2013 shows a 49% increase.

The month of March on the SMDCAC mainstage was a non-stop schedule of big name national and local artistic groups performing popular shows: Latin music superstar and NEA Jazz Master Eddie Palmieri and his Latin Jazz Band (March 9); the New York Broadway touring production of *A Chorus Line* (March 17); and the hit of the world music scene, Red Baraat with opening act the Miami-based Spam Allstars (March 23).

Rentals during the month of March included: Miami Youth Ballet with their children's production of *Carnival of the Animals* (March 6); Miami-Dade County Public Schools Superintendent's Dance Program (March 12); and Calvary Chapel's Easter Concerts (March 31).

Also in March, SMDCAC's Cabaret Series in the Black Box Theater featured Pedro Alfonso and Friends with *Violin and Comedy* (March 1 and 2) and The District Stage Company with *Broadway Unplugged* (March 29 and 30). Also performed in the intimate Lab Theater was ODANCE Company's production of *Romeo and Juliet* (March 15-17).

The Center received excellent press coverage for March shows including a highlight feature story on the Eddie Palmieri concert in *The Miami Herald* and a live interview with Mr. Palmieri on WDNA 88.9. *A Chorus Line* was also featured in *Miami Herald* theater critic Christine Dolen's Arts Notes.

Education and outreach programs in March included a FREE advanced ballet class for dancers with ODANCE, a lecture demonstration for youth with New World Symphony and theater workshops for students with Broadway star Andy Senor from The District Stage Company.

Upcoming in April on the mainstage is world music star and tabla player Zakir Hussain performing with santoor master Shivkumar Sharma (April 4); the high energy step dancers

from the famed troupe Step Afrika!, a co presentation with Culture Shock Miami (April 6); aerial dance performers Alison Chase/Performance (April 13); and India Jazz Suites (April 20) featuring traditional Indian dance and American tap dancing, another co presentation with Culture Shock Miami.

The Hot Club of San Francisco, a gypsy swing jazz band playing the music of Django Reinhardt, will perform three shows as part of the Cabaret Series (April 26-27) as well as provide a special Friday morning performance for 900 public school students.

For a complete listing of upcoming events, please visit the Center's website, www.smdcac.org.

BACKGROUND

The South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center is located on S.W. 211 Street in Cutler Bay and is a multidisciplinary arts center designed to showcase the performing arts. The design team was led by architectural and engineering firm Arquitectonica International, Inc, and also included: theater consultant Fisher Dachs Associates, Inc.; acoustical and sound and communications consultant Artec Consultants, Inc.; and arts management consultant AMS Planning & Research Corp.

The Center's 966-seat state-of-the-art Theater Building includes a fly tower, orchestra pit, front of house spaces (box office, lobby, restrooms, concessions, etc.), back of house support spaces (dressing rooms, storage and work areas, administrative offices, etc.) and a multi-purpose rehearsal space. The separate Activities Building of the Center houses an informal performance space, and smaller multi-purpose spaces for lectures, classes, or community gatherings. The Center's two buildings are joined by an outdoor promenade leading to a gently-sloping lawn for outdoor concerts and festivals along the Black Creek Canal.

Through Miami-Dade County's Art in Public Places Program, the Center has major public art works created by Miami artist Robert Chambers. An innovative light piece illuminates the translucent inner lobby wall with changing light designs created by computer-programmed LED fixtures. In addition, the lobby features two marble sculptures also created by Robert Chambers.

This season Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay has generously sponsored the South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center's Cabaret Series.

Attachments



Lisa M. Martinez, Senior Advisor, Office of the Mayor

**South Miami-Dade Cultural Arts Center
Community Outreach With Violinist Daniel Bernard Roumain**



Zora Neale Hurston Elem



Zora Neale Hurston Elem



North Miami Senior HS

Goulds Elementary School

